

NEWS

From the Office of

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Graffiti Removal Program in High Desert to Begin

HESPERIA – Graffiti in the unincorporated areas of the High Desert is going to be much less visible beginning as early as next week now that a contractor has been hired to remove the scrawls and markings left by gang members and vandals.

“This type of pernicious vandalism affects the quality of life, the property values, and even the safety of residents in too many neighborhoods throughout the High Desert,” said Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt, who represents the High Desert. “It’s very much the ‘broken window’ phenomenon, in which one patch of graffiti leads to more graffiti and more problems. This abatement program will start to break that cycle and help neighborhoods restore a sense of quality, security and community.”

The removal team will work throughout the unincorporated areas of the First District. They will patrol high volume areas and clean up graffiti as they find it. They will also respond to complaints. The goal will be to respond within 48 hours, though officials caution that the workload early on will be heavy, and that response times may be longer than two days for the first month or so.

The vendor will use high-quality removal techniques, including a water blaster and cleaners. If the graffiti has to be painted over, the color will be matched as closely as possible.

Complaints can be called in to the Graffiti Hot Line at 1-877-44 ABATE, or residents can call Code Enforcement at 1-800-722-3181.

“This is one more step in our efforts to reduce the influence of gangs and make sure our neighborhoods are safe,” Mitzelfelt said. “Along with tighter enforcement, including GPS tracking of gang members, I have arranged for funding of several intervention programs at schools and youth centers aimed at steering young people away from gangs.”

The \$101,400 contract is for one year with a provision for extensions.